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KalamazooVALLEY community college

DUAL ENROLLMENT

EXPERIENCE COLLEGE WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL

Dual enrolled student Maddy Guimond (MSB Photo)

High school senior Maddy Guimond is proud to call herself a Loy Norrix Knight. On Tuesday and Thursday nights, she's also a proud Kalamazoo Valley Cougar.

The 18-year-old varsity volleyball player travels to Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus twice a week to take College Physics 1 in a classroom with 23 college students.

Guimond is one of the more than 1.4 million high school students nationwide who takes classes at a community college or four-year institution while still in high school. Through a program known as dual enrollment, eligible high school students may enroll in college classes at post-secondary institutions and earn both high school and college credit. Tuition and fees are paid for by the school district through the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO). Depending on the district, transportation may also be provided.

The purpose of the program, explained Dr. Deborah Coates, dean of dual enrollment at Kalamazoo Valley, is to complement the academic programs of high school students by expanding their opportunities and offering them the challenge of taking courses that they are unable to take at their high schools.

More than 625 area high school students currently take classes on Kalamazoo Valley's four campuses through dual enrollment. An additional 250 students take classes on campus through the Early College program, which allows students to earn an associate degree or certificate by completing a fifth year of high school.

"It's the perfect way for students to get their feet wet and explore what they might want to do in the future," Coates said.

Guimond, who is interested in a career in healthcare, also took a nutrition class at the college during the fall semester. She is one of 58 Loy Norrix students who are currently dual enrolled at either Kalamazoo Valley or Western Michigan University – a more than 20 percent increase from last school year. Those 58 students have enrolled in a total of 129 college courses.

"I wanted to take more challenging classes," Guimond said. "The two instructors I've had at Valley I've absolutely loved. They're super engaging and have made learning really fun."

Guimond will take the credits she earned at Kalamazoo Valley with her to either Kalamazoo College or Michigan State University in the fall.

To be eligible for dual enrollment at Kalamazoo Valley, students must meet placement test benchmark scores. According to the PSEO, students must take courses that are academic in nature and in a subject area other than physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education. Students may take up to 10 courses at a post-secondary institution while in high school. In most cases, the courses can apply toward satisfaction of postsecondary degree requirements.

"If a student is academically ready, we encourage them to try dual enrollment," Coates said. "The knowledge they'll gain and the college-going culture they'll experience will put them steps ahead of their peers."

Chris Aguinaga, dean of students and assistant principal at Loy Norrix agrees.

"Students should consider dual enrollment courses to be better prepared for the rigor and differences of college courses compared to high school courses," Aguinaga said. "Beyond this, they get the natural benefit of earning college credit while still in high school to help with a head start in college."

Dual enrolled students have access to all of the support services that are available at Kalamazoo Valley, including academic and career advising, tutoring, student strengths development and employment services. "I highly encourage students to work with an academic counselor on campus to chart their courses to ensure that the credits they earn will properly transfer through the Michigan Transfer Agreement," Coates said.

The Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) was designed by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) to facilitate the transfer of general education requirements from a community college to a four-year institution.

Tutoring, Coates added, through the college's Learning Center, is another important resource that students should take advantage of while on campus.

"As college students, they must manage their time, self-advocate and be actively engaged while on campus," Coates said. "We want them to succeed and have these support services in place to help them do so."

High school students interested in dual enrollment at Kalamazoo Valley for the fall 2018-2019 school year are encouraged to apply (www.kvcc.edu/apply) to the college now to ensure that they are ready to register for classes when registration opens the week of April 2.

Students will receive an acceptance letter in the mail within one week. After being accepted, students should work with their high school counselor to determine their dual enrollment qualifications under the PSEO and complete placement testing.

For more information, contact Dr. Deborah Coates at dcoates@kvcc.edu.

BE OUR GUEST STUDENT

While many students are making plans for a warm weather spring break, some are already planning how they can complete their college education and graduate on time. They know that by enrolling in summer semester classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College they can get ahead on required classes and save money on tuition costs.

"Students who are enrolled in other colleges and universities often return home for the summer and Kalamazoo Valley makes becoming a guest student here easy; students only need to complete an online Kalamazoo Valley application, and identify themselves as a guest student," said Kalamazoo Valley's Director of Admissions, Registration and Records Sarah Hubbell.

These students will receive an acceptance letter within one week containing the information they need to register for classes through the college's self-service online portal. Tuition bills are available online and payment can be made online, on campus, or by mail. To apply, students should visit www.kvcc.edu/apply.

Before enrolling, guest students should consult with their current college or university to ensure that the classes they take at Kalamazoo Valley will be accepted as transfer credit. Once they have completed course work, students need to be sure to submit a request to have an official transcript sent back to their primary institution.

According to Director of Enrollment Management E. J. Bast, "The benefits of taking summer classes at Kalamazoo Valley are numerous. Students stay on track for graduation or get ahead in their program while they are home for the summer. Plus, affordable tuition and small class sizes make this an attractive option."

Guest students are not alone in benefitting from summer classes. "Many of our community college students enroll in summer semester classes to keep on pace to complete their programs in a timely manner," said Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. Billy Reynolds. "Several Kalamazoo Valley programs of study include opportunities to fast-forward degree completion and transfer options by including summer classes."

A complete list of summer semester classes is available at www.kvcc.edu/schedule. Summer semester begins for all students on Monday, May 7, and concludes on Monday, August 21. Online registration begins the week of March 12.

Tower at the Texas Township Campus

EXPLORING CULTURE THROUGH COOKING
YOUTH CULINARY ACADEMY

Chinese dumplings

Feed your child's curiosity! Join us for a weekly food adventure around the globe. This spring, travel with Kalamazoo Valley Community College in a six-part youth culinary academy geared to children ages 9 to 14.

Explore the culture and cuisine of different destinations while cooking recipes from that region. The series will cover everything from traditional food greetings ('buon appetito' in Italy) and dining etiquette (utensils optional), to learning how agriculture and geography determine flavors and cooking techniques.

Classes run on Wednesday evening from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. April 18 to May 23 at the Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 E. Walnut Street in downtown Kalamazoo. The course fee of $100 includes food at each session.

Budding foodies are welcome to explore international cooking traditions and celebrate diversity through the common language of food. Led by a culinary instructor with regional expertise, each week students will become immersed in the culture and cuisine of a featured nation.

Participants will "travel" to Thailand with Kalamazoo Valley's Tip Maddux, farm lab coordinator at the Food Innovation Center. Maddux spends her days cultivating, harvesting, and also educating students and community members on the value of the food we grow. Maddux is an expert at growing and cooking with fragrant regional herbs and will share her skills in this class.

Exploring Halal foods will be Chef Nidal Awad. Awad and his team at Shawarma King on Drake Road live by the motto there is no love more sincere than the love of food. "That love is apparent, both in his food and in the hospitality he extends to his customers and the community," said Program Coordinator Lizzie Luchsinger.

Another cooking tour will be led by Hristina Petrovska, featuring the taste of her homeland Macedonia. She will discuss the food, culture, and customs of Macedonia while introducing traditional foods like ajvar, a red pepper and eggplant-based relish. "Hristina is passionate about cooking and Kalamazoo, and she always inspires her audiences," said Luchsinger.

Students will delve into Chinese cooking and culture with Xin Wang Liu, who, along with her husband Anson, own Kalamazoo's Pacific Rim Foods. Liu is also a local cooking teacher and expertly crafts traditional Chinese dumplings and buns. "One session with Liu, and your student will be folding dumplings like a pro!" Luchsinger said.

"Enroll your junior foodie today," said Luchsinger, "We're excited about celebrating the diverse traditions of our planet with one thing that brings us all together - food."

For more information or to register, contact program coordinator Lizzie Luchsinger at mluchsinger@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1265 or go to www.kvcc.edu/community.

VISITING WRITERS SERIES PRESENTS
MARDI JO LINK ON MARCH 28 AND 29

Kalamazoo Valley's Visiting Writers series hosts author Mardi Jo Link on Wednesday, March 28, and Thursday, March 29, in the Student Commons Theater at the Texas Township Campus. She will read from her work from 10 to 10:45 a.m. both days and she'll present craft talks from 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Link is the author of the non-fiction books *When Evil Came to Good Hart and Isadore's Secret*, winner of the Michigan Notable Book Award. Other books include two memoirs, *Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm* and *The Drummond Girls: A Story of Fierce Friendship Beyond Time and Chance* as well as numerous stories and articles in a variety of publications.

She studied journalism at Michigan State University and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Queens University of Charlotte. She has been a newspaper reporter, magazine editor, and a freelance journalist. The Detroit native is married with three grown sons.

When Link comes to Kalamazoo, she will have just finished a month-long position as a Journalism Fellow in the Traverse City Public Schools teaching reporting to a class of juniors and seniors at the Career-Tech Center. "I'm also working on something brand new for me, a podcast, which will bring attention to the re-release of my first book, *When Evil Came to Good Hart*," Link said. "In April of this year, the University of Michigan Press is releasing a special 10th anniversary edition of that book with a new afterword. And, I'm in the throes of researching a new memoir about my family history."

Author Mardi Jo Link

During her talks in Kalamazoo, Link said she plans to help demystify the writing and publishing process for students. "Here is the biggest lesson I can offer," she said. "You are not supposed to know what you are doing. That is the essence of being a writer - to learn what you are doing, what you are writing, who you are, who your characters are, what the story is - by writing it!"

Link said her audience can expect some very real stories about getting published, about the writer's life, and about the resolve required to make writing a life-long practice.

She tells new writers to remain true to themselves. "Be as much like yourself as you can," she advises. "Be more like yourself in your writing than you are in your real life if you can. As Oscar Wilde said, 'Everyone else is already taken.' Your voice as a writer is your very best asset. Don't dilute it, or smother it by trying to write like or sound like someone else. Be honest but gentle in your criticism of yourself and your writing. The whole world is ready and willing to edit you. When you're just starting out, don't give the world any help. Don't edit yourself too harshly. Instead, be your own encourager in chief."

Link believes everything can be considered valid fodder for a writer. "All of your writing experience fits in somewhere," she said. "Journals, lists, letters, school assignments, it all adds to your skill level. I believe that writing is a craft, like mechanics, graphic design, and carpentry. Practice makes you better at it. Quantity is absolutely necessary for quality to be achieved."

Kalamazoo Valley English instructor Rob Haight coordinates the Visiting Writers series to give students and community members an opportunity to talk with professional writers and listen to their work. Haight has written three books of poetry and said he thinks it's important for writers to collaborate. "Writing communities tend to be proactive for everyone concerned," he said, noting that a number of Kalamazoo Valley alumni have gone on to become successful writers.

To prepare for Link's visit, many English classes at Kalamazoo Valley will read her memoir *Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm* as a book in common for the winter semester.

Link's presentations are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rob Haight at rhaight@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4452 or go to https://www.kvcc.edu/campuslife/visitingwriters/.

SECOND ANNUAL
2018 Kalamazoo FOODWAYS symposium

FOCUSES ON NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE AND COOKING

Kalamazoo's Second Annual Foodways Symposium will focus on Native American culture, cooking, and food sovereignty and justice. The event takes place on April 6 and 7 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Bronson Healthy Living Campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The Symposium kicks off at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose Street, on Friday night during Art Hop. Through a partnership with the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, other Art Hop venues throughout the city will feature food-themed exhibits.

On Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a variety of demonstrations, activities for children, workshops, and a community discussion on healthy, sustainable foodways at the Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 E. Walnut Street.

The keynote speaker will be storyteller Larry Plamondon, a member of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians who is noted for his knowledge of the traditional stories of the Anishinaabe, specializing in stories from the Ottawa, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe. He is also a Master Storyteller in the Michigan State University Folklife program.

Recognized as a "tradition bearer" by the Michigan Humanities Council, Plamondon is a published author, playwright and an activist in Native American issues.

In addition, FireKeepers Casino and Hotel Head Chef James Thomson, a Chippewa Indian from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, will share personal stories and talk about the importance of food heritage and food sovereignty.

Assistant Director for Educational Services at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Elspeth Inglis is one of the event organizers. She said the annual Foodways Symposium is meant to offer programs and activities that provide historical, cultural, and practical insights into food and food systems in Southwest Michigan. "It serves as a convening point for students, practitioners, and the community to come together to build a strong, vibrant local food system," she explained.

All programs are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule of events during the Foodways Symposium, visit: http://kalamazoomuseum.org/kalamazoofoodways.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE STUDENT PROFICIENCY

Walk into Dr. Kevin Fuchs' Elementary Spanish class (FRL 105) and you'll be enthusiastically greeted with, "Hola, bienvenidos a clase." Despite being an introductory course with no previous Spanish prerequisites, Fuchs teaches 90 percent of his class in Spanish.

"We don't learn about a language and then use it," Fuchs said. "You learn a language by using it."

Fuchs, who has been teaching Spanish for more than 18 years and double majored in science and Japanese at the University of Notre Dame, teaches four different Spanish courses at Kalamazoo Valley, from Elementary Spanish to the more advanced Intermediate Spanish II. He uses the same 90/10 philosophy in all of his classes.

"We are building a program that focuses on proficiency," Fuchs said. "Knowing a foreign language improves a student's career opportunities. It's critical to personal growth and cultural literacy. Learning more about the world teaches you more about yourself."

Fuchs recently collaborated with Dr. Mercedes Tasende and Dr. Irma Lopez, the chair and former chair of Western Michigan University's Department of Spanish and Dr. Molly Lynde-Recchia, chair of WMU's Department of World Languages to host the American Council on Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL) Workshop "Developing Language Performance & Supporting Use of Target Language."

The day-long Saturday workshop brought 48 language professors, instructors and teaching assistants from area middle schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions together to network and participate in training that focused on innovative ideas for improving student proficiency in the language classroom. The foreign languages represented included Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese, French, German and Russian. Funding was provided by the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation and the Western Michigan University Office for Faculty Development.

Facilitator Laura Terrill, a professional learning consultant for ACTFL, stressed the importance of evaluating student progress in reading and listening, spontaneous use of language, and rehearsed speaking and writing. She highlighted the necessity of having students engage in language exercises that require working on meaningful tasks and moving away from grammar-centric approaches to language learning.

"Many of her recommended practices are designed to improve student retention by using topics of interest to them and pertinent to real life situations, unlike many textbooks that may present vocabulary not used in the real world," Fuchs explained. "She provided great ways to improve student interest, proficiency, retention, and consistency across sections and instructors in the language classroom."

Fuchs and his colleagues in the foreign language department are already thinking of how they can best renovate, renew and reinvigorate their curriculum based on what they learned at the workshop.

"Interest in learning a foreign language is growing," Fuchs said. "We need to meet those needs and provide consistency across the board in our teaching."

Kalamazoo Valley's current foreign language offerings include Spanish and French, with discussions about the possibility of expanding course offerings in these current languages as well as adding other languages.

For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu.

CAREER FAIR IS WEDNESDAY MARCH 21

More than 75 regional employers will be on site during the Kalamazoo Career Fair on Wednesday, March 21, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus. The event is from noon to 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Ample free parking is available.

Landscape Forms, All Phase Electric, Bell's Brewery, Schupan and Sons, and Bronson Healthcare are among the employers that are scheduled to host booths with information about employment opportunities.

"Statewide statistics point to improving employment opportunities for many types of workers," according to Mary McConnell, workforce coordinator at the college and event organizer. "There is high demand for those in skilled trades, health care, business, CAD, culinary and brewing, and graphic design."

Job seekers who attend the Career Fair should bring copies of their resumes, dress for success and be prepared to meet with potential employers. The purpose of this event is to give student and community job seekers the opportunity to meet with area employers. Last year's event drew more than 400 job seekers.

"The Career Fair is a great resource for the entire community. In addition, the event provides an excellent opportunity for Kalamazoo Valley students. They are able to interact with a variety of employers and learn firsthand about the jobs available in the area," McConnell said.

A list of participating employers, tips for job seekers, and other details are available on the Career Fair website at www.kvcc.edu/careerfair.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Andre Randall

Chicago native Andre Randall was once homeless and is no stranger to life's challenges. He moved to Kalamazoo to be closer to his children and began taking classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College to improve his job prospects. He came very close to quitting school while struggling to recover from back surgery, but a kind word changed his outlook.

"I was on a walker and coming to class and I just thought it was getting to be too much," Randall recalls. A comment from law enforcement instructor Jeff Shouldice changed his attitude. "He stopped and asked me about what I was going through and it gave me the incentive to keep going. Just him talking to me turned me all the way around and inspired me," Randall said. "It meant so much to know that somebody actually cared about me. I'll appreciate him forever. He's the reason I'm here."

Shouldice remembers that day. "The first time I ever met Andre, he was walking across the parking lot using a walker," Shouldice said. The two have been friendly ever since. "For whatever reason, we just connected," Shouldice said. "I just took an interest in him and it's been cool to see him make the transition from using a walker to healing from surgery."

Randall, who is 55, has already earned an associate degree in electrical technology. He also has electrical construction and electrical controls certificates. He continues to take as many classes as he can and is working to gain certification as an electrician. In addition, he's enrolled in automotive technology classes. "I'm happy to be able to use my mind," Randall said. "School was a way for me to keep going. It played a big part in my recovery. It still does."

Randall is helping a friend get ready to apply to the college even though he knows it may feel overwhelming. "When I first started taking classes, I was scared. I thought I was too old," he said. "But I'm working toward something better for my life. My advice is to come on and go back to school. It's not as hard as you think."

Kalamazoo Valley Community College FOUNDATION KV

Save The Date
Wednesday, May 23 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation presents its 14th Annual Opportunities for Education Dinner at the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites. This event is the Foundation's primary fundraiser, supporting student scholarships at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Keynote speaker will be Veronika Scott, head of the Detroit-based Empowerment Plan, a nonprofit organization focused on elevating families from the generational cycle of homelessness.

For details, call the Foundation office at 269.488.4442 or visit www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

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2018 OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION DINNER
Veronika Scott

NEW PROGRAM AIMED AT INCREASING GRADUATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is implementing a new program patterned after similar models in New York and Ohio where graduation rates have more than doubled. The new initiative, Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program (KVAAP), is designed to boost academic momentum and support associate degree completion through comprehensive advising, financial assistance, structured educational pathways and full-time college attendance.

Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Services Dr. Dennis Bertch said that KVAAP addresses multiple needs of students to help improve their chance of successful degree completion. "Despite their good intentions and commitment, many students are unable to complete their educational requirements in a timely manner, if at all. Kalamazoo Valley is devoting full-time staff to provide comprehensive, personalized support and career development services as a part of this program," Bertch said.

KVAAP is scheduled to enroll students for the fall semester and is housed at the college's downtown Arcadia Commons Campus. Louis Thomas has been named the director of the program.

In addition to Kalamazoo Valley, Westchester Community College, which is part of the State University of New York System, and Skyline Community College in California are the latest campuses that are gearing up to implement this type of educational intervention and support.

"The model, originally implemented at City University of New York (CUNY), is achieving results that appear to be unduplicated elsewhere in regard to helping students who are in the developmental education sphere," Bertch continued.

CUNY requires participating students to enroll full time and to take developmental courses immediately and continuously. The goal of their program was to double graduation. Three years after implementation, 40 percent of students graduated compared to 22 percent of control group students, according to MDRC, a nonprofit nonpartisan education and social policy research organization founded by the Ford Foundation.

Three community colleges in Ohio were among the first of other institutions to try the approach, despite having different demographics in different locations. Last year MDRC found that those three colleges - Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Cuyahoga Community College, and Lorain County Community College were seeing early improvements in enrollment, retention and completion.

"Working with the new director, Louis Thomas, and localizing an effort that is having great success elsewhere, we hope to make a measurable impact on graduation rates and help our students achieve their goals," Bertch said.

Students and families interested in the program must live in-district, be Pell Grant eligible, and will be required to complete an application for the program. More information is available by contacting Louis Thomas at lthomas@kvcc.edu.

KALAMAZOO CAREERFAIR

Real Careers. Real People.
kvcc.edu/careerfair

WEDNESDAY / MARCH 21
12–4 p.m. / Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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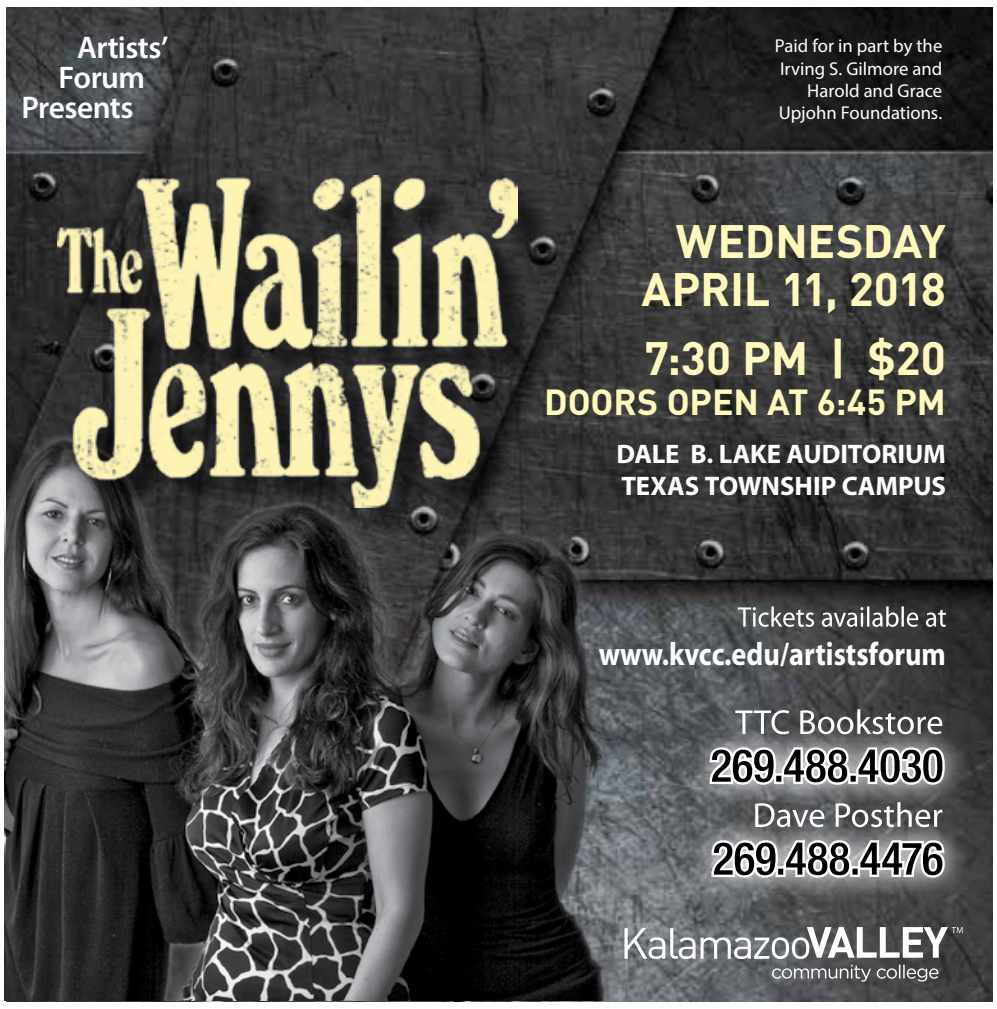

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